

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, April 8. 1712.

I Have observ'd of the Writers of this Age, that they differ strangely from what I remember them to be some Years ago; THEN Men wrote from Principle, NOW 'tis all from Party; Peace and War is now the Subject; the Regard to the Miseries of the latter, or the Disadvantages of the former, move us not; the Case is, how it respects the Parties we act for? And we enquire who this Man writes for? Not what he says.

If these Argue for a Peace, they make no scruple to give *Spain* and the *Indies* to *France*, insult the *Dutch* as Treacherous Confederates, run us down in our Circum-

stances, as not able to carry on the War any longer, not valuing how naked they lay us, or how they expose the Nation to our Enemy; the Case is, these Men would make a Peace at any Rate; I do not enquire whether *Jacobite* Principles, or what else moves them; the Party they espouse are for a Peace at any Rate, a *French Peace*, a *Treacherous Peace*, any how, the worse the better; a Peace is the Case, the other Views are the Things they drive at, and they care not if they sell you all to *France* or to the *D—*, so they can but bring it to pass.

Take another Extreme, and they having Views of quite contrary Nature; they

are as vehement for the War, the Pretence indeed of these is more specious, viz. the Reducing France to better Terms, and the giving up the Spanish Monarchy; but come close to these Men, and ask them, well, Gentlemen, if France would quit all the Spanish Monarchy, and give the Dutch the Barrier, the Emperor his Frontier, and restore the Duke of Savoy his Conquests on that Side; in short, if France would sign the Articles of Ghentruydenbergh, shall we make a Peace then? Truly they cannot say they would, and the more honest of them will acknowledge the Grievance lies elsewhere; they would not have this Party make the Peace, for then they establish themselves, and if the War goes on, they would be run into difficulties that would overwhelm them, and throw them out.

These are sad Extremes, and the hazard our Circumstances are in, from both these, is very great; but there are a small Third Party among us, alas! how few; and with these, I would take my Lot, and for these I declare myself—— Their Thoughts are such as these.

They are sensible we want a Peace very much, yet not so much as to despond of carrying on the War, if it must be carried on: They earnestly desire to see an End of Blood, and the Miseries of Europe to have some happy interval, and therefore they cheerfully Embrace every Offer of Peace, let it come from who it will; yet they are not so earnest for a Peace as to wish, much less desire, least of all endeavour to have an Unsafe, a Dishonourable, a Clandestine or a Separate Peace, and therefore they as cheerfully go into all the Schemes for carrying on a Vigorous War, that the Posture we may be in, and the Measures taken may enforce the Peace, and may assist to Reduce the Enemy to a Necessity of granting good Conditions.

As to the Publick, all the Wise Men, whether in the Ministry, in the Parliament, or every where else, all the Men of Heads are of this Opinion, and act upon this Foundation; if there are any Mad-Men at

Court, as what part of the World is free from the Taint of Hot Principles, they are Enemies to the Queen, to their Country, and to the Peace of Europe? All the Men of Sense, and Thought, all the Men of Temper, Moderation, or Consideration, agree with this Notion, and all the Healths I see drank among them, and which I confess, is my constant Toast, is this, To an Honourable Peace, or a Successful War; the first I pray for; the last is the fatal Blessing, nothing but Necessity makes us wish for.

It is true, that my Desire of the first, makes me think the Time too long, which they spend at V—s in Ceremonies, Disputing about Writing or Conference, sending to Principals, and waiting Answers; I would take the French any Way, Writing or not Writing, and see what they will come to; that if Peace may be had, we may have it; and if not, that we may know it, and be amused no longer with the Hopes of it.

I confess when I see them delay thus, I fear the the Scots Highlander's Prophecy lately mention'd, may come to pass, viz. That it will be October before they bring it to a Conclusion.

What a Noise have we had with Specifics on one Hand, and Specifics on the other? I wish they would tell us which is the true Specifick to end it all one Way or other.

I am answer'd immediately, a War, this is the only Specifick; with all my Heart, say I, if an Honourable Peace cannot be obtain'd; But what is the Stop? Where do we all Stick in the Affair of the Treaty? Let us enquire a little into it, for, Gentlemen, there must be some Witchcraft in it, that the World does not yet understand.

The French have taken a great deal of Pains to bring this Treaty about; we flatter ourselves they have a great deal of Reason to do so, for that they cannot hold on the War; that one Campaign more will Reduce them, and the like; for my part, were I Statesman, and to guide it, you should

should have the Occasion to try if this Time were yet come; one Campaign more has been a Word we have heard a long Time, and there is no doubt, but some time or other that Time will come, for *France* must be at last Reduc'd, one last Campaign must come, or something must happen I fear to name, you should e'en be tempted with one Campaign more to try.

But here lies a Riddle, which I believe our Scots Highlander, with his second Sight, has not seen into — We say the *French* Plenipotentiaries protract the Time, spin out the Treaty in length, and put us off with Delays, and yet we say they have desired this Treaty, because they are in dread of the Confederate Armies. One of these cannot be the Case; and therefore I cannot but wonder at the Confidence of the *French* Plenipotentiaries, that after they had taken such low Steps to solicit this Treaty, they should put a full stop to it, upon a nicety, of Whether they shall give in Writing, or by Word of Mouth, what they have to say?

I wonder no less at the *French* also, that instead of being charg'd with delay, they do not charge the Confederates with delay, in desiring more Writing, and declining to enter into Conference — For sure they must come to Conference at last, and which is the nearest Way to End a Treaty they all know.

But, say the *French*, No, we see the Consequence; if we give in a New Writing, the Confederate Ministers Reply presently — *This is not satisfactory*; you must make New Offers, and then again, *this is not satisfactory* — And so on; and we shall be us'd just as we were at *Okerwydenbergh*, and at last the Treaty broke up; but by Conference we are ready to enter upon every Pretension and every Demand, and to go through the whole, and to refuse this, is to break up the Treaty absolutely, and say you will not Treat with us at all.

I imagine, I must confess, that the Confederates Measures point at this, *viz.* To have the *French* give in a Reasonable Pro-

posal, and perhaps they may reject the first and second, or more, till they do; I will not say, but that the *French*, who are the Party that desir'd a Treaty, ought to give in Proposals fit to be Treated upon, or else what do they come there for? This then is out of doubt, and I wonder they should not do it — But that it must come to Conference at last, if ever they bring it to a Peace, is no doubt neither, for it can never be done without it.

I remember when the Lords Commissioners of *England* and *Scotland* met, to Treat of the Union, a Thing as difficult and as unlikely to be Concluded as this can be, they objected against giving in general Proposals in Writing, because of the Unreasonable length it would spin the Work out to; but the Article they were to Treat upon, was given in every Day in Writing, and then they fell to work with it altogether by Conference, and this brought it to a Conclusion, the other would have kept it on Foot to this Day.

Thus what can the *French* expect, if they do not come nearer to the Point? And if they do, if they lay down a Scheme fit to be Treated upon, why should the rest refuse to confer upon it, and see if they can bring it to some Head?

I shall never blame the Confederates for refusing to Treat, till they see the *French* give a Proposal fit to be Treated upon — Nor shall I blame the *French* for Refusing to give in their Proposals, if they have not some Assurances that they shall be Treated with when they have done it: What can this *stumbling at the Threshold* mean? What are these Men met for? Is it to Quarrel about Niceties and Distinctions? — Are they Plenipotentiaries, or are they not? — I see nothing can be the Consequence of this Way of Management, but a long Linger-ing, till the War decide it; and if that must be the Fate of *Europe*, I wish the Success may answer honest Men's desires; I see nothing in it, I confess, but carrying on the War, for that which may be had without it; and then ending it after another Campaign,

paign, another Sea of Blood and Money, upon no better Terms than you may do now; for after you have done all, you must and will come to a Partition—— There can be no Peace, even among yourselves, without it.

And what if *you Petit Dauphin* should

die; then you will find a *Scene* open'd you never saw before, and the *French* may, perhaps, to get out of this War, declare the Duke of *Savoy* King of *Spain*; and what shall we say to that? —— I'll Adventure my Thoughts on that Head in a very little Time.

ADVERTISEMENT S.

THE *Highland Visions*, or the *Scotts New Prophecy*: Declaring in Twelve Visions what strange Things shall come to pass in the Year 1712. Sold by *John Baker* at the *Black Boy* in *Passer-Noster-Row*. 1712.

Just Publish'd,

MARTEN Abridg'd: Or, a Compendium of the Seventh Edition of his Treatise concerning the Venereal Disease and other Secret Infirmities in both Sexes, Containing whatever is necessary to the Knowledge of the Symptoms, Causes, and Cure of that Odious Infection, &c. as also the Use and Abuse of Mercury, Mischiefs by Quacks, &c. By the Author of the Treatise aforementioned. London, Printed for and sold by him at his House in *Matton Garden*. Also by *N. Crouch* in the *Poultry*, *A. Bettelworth* on *London Bridge*, *P. Varenne* at *Seneca's Head* in the *Strand*, *C. King* in *Westminster Hall*, *M. Athias* in *St Paul's Church Yard*, Booksellers: And *D. Leach* in the *little Old Baily*. Price fitch'd 1 s. Bound 1 s. 6 d.

THE incomparable Plaster for Corns so much approved of, in City and Country for keeping the Feet easy. Tho' you have never so many in the Ball of your Foot, and not able to go, apply the Plaster, and you may walk with Ease, and be always free from Pain. To be had at *Mrs. Garraway's* at the South Entrance of the *Royal Exchange*, at *Mr.*

Stephens's at the Comb under *St. Dunstan's Church*, *Fleetstreet*, at *Mr. Bates* at the *Hat and Star* in *St. Paul's Church-Yard*, and at *Mr. Colston's*, at the *Flower de luce* near *Popes Head Alley*, *Cornhill*. All Toy-shops. Seal'd up with a *Black-a-moors Head* in 12 d a Box with Directions. (3)

QUACKERY Unmask'd; in 3 Parts, containing, 1. Reflections on the 7th Edition of *Mr. Martin's* Treatise of the Venereal Disease. 2. An Examination of the *Charitable Surgeon*, The *Generous Surgeon*, The *Tomb of Venus*, and a pretended new Method of curing this Disease. 3. A brief Enquiry into the Ancient and present State of the Practices of Physick and Surgery; a full Account of Quacks; then (in a concise Method) is shewn the Cause, Nature, Signs, and Dangerous Effects of this Disease, various ways of Receiving, Symptoms first Discovering, and only Method of preventing its Infection; together with the best, most cheap, safe, speedy, easie and private Methods of Cure. As also the Cause and Cure of *Old G.* in Men, and Weaknesses in Women. The Second Edition Enlarg'd. Sold by *D. Brown* without *Temple-Bar*, *G. Strahan*, at the *Golden-Ball* in *Cornhill*, and *B. Barker*, in *Westminster-Hall* and by the Author, *Dr. Spinke*, at his House at the *Golden-Ball*, 3 Doors directly past the *Sun-Tavern*, in *Milk-street Market*, *Cheapside*. Price 2 s.

Printed for, and sold by *John Baker* at the *Black-Boy* in *Passer-Noster-Row*. 1712.